

NWUPC QUARTERLY



January 2023

NWUPC Members magazine, coming out each quarter with a round up of NWUPC news, Category Group updates, framework information and upcoming events for NWUPC Members.



Managing Director's Update

“ Welcome to the first edition of our membership magazine! I hope that you are all feeling energised, refreshed, and ready for the new year. ”

This edition of the quarterly newsletter is packed with useful information to you keep up-to-date with the ongoing changes in the Public Procurement Bill, updates on frameworks, events and NWUPC activities.

In this past quarter, I am happy to inform you all we have filled staff positions in new roles across all disciplines. NWUPC welcomes our new team members who are bringing fresh ideas and supported by the expertise of longer serving staff who are embracing the restructure as a way of continuing to enhance our excellent customer services to members. In addition, there is an exciting growth opportunity with work underway to appoint two new procurement apprentices providing them with formal and on the job training and knowledge as well as helping with delivering some of our new added value services.

NWUPC has an exciting year ahead with the return of our annual conference to be delivered in person this June. This is a great opportunity to connect with like-minded industry professionals, learn and innovate through our workshops and seminars and explore suppliers across the procurement supply chain. The registration to attend is now open and we look forward to welcoming you this summer! More information on the conference can be found on page 3.

We have a full programme of tendering activity with work well underway to deliver 10 frameworks this calendar year as well as lots of learning and development activity. Included in this edition are newly introduced frameworks such as the Sustainable Fleet Solutions introduced by NWUPC's team which you now have access to as well as updates to existing frameworks. If you missed a category group meeting last quarter, please take a look at our Category meeting updates on pages 13 and 14. In addition, you can find the dates for the category group meetings for this quarter to add to your diary on page 15.

To round off this edition, we are spotlighting a NWUPC staff member and this time round it is our category manager, Mary! Have a read through to understand the role Mary plays in our small but mighty team.

We hope you find this information useful and we look forward to connecting with you throughout this year.

Julie-Ann Garton
Managing Director
NWUPC Ltd

Transforming Public Procurement Update

- December 2022

The Procurement Bill completed its passage through the House of Lords in December with a number of Government amendments made following detailed debates. The majority were minor or technical - but there were also some significant policy changes that are now reflected in the current version of the Bill, most notably to support economic growth and reduce burdens on contracting authorities. [You can view the Bill on the Parliament.uk website](https://www.parliament.uk/bills/2022/procurement-bill). The key changes are:

- A specific duty on contracting authorities to have regard to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Provisions to ensure that contracting authorities may not require:

- Audited accounts to test the financial standing of bidders as part of conditions of participation, unless they are already required to have their accounts audited under the Companies Act 2006.
- Insurance relating to the performance of the contract to be in place before the award of the contract - so SMEs do not need to incur unnecessary bidding costs in taking out insurance cover without the guarantee of winning the contract.
- A revision of the threshold above which contracting authorities must publish specific transparency data (key performance indicators, publication of contracts, contract change notices) from £2 million to £5 million, to reduce the burden of these requirements on contracting authorities and ensure a more proportionate approach in focussing on the larger contracts.
- An amendment to include, in the text of the Bill, an explicit duty on the Minister for the Cabinet Office to provide a central, freely accessible, digital platform.
- Finally, contracting authorities will now be required to share with all participants a redacted assessment summary of the winning bid only and send the unsuccessful bidders their own summary privately.

Progress on development of the Single Central Digital Platform

The central digital platform will be a single place built out from the Find a Tender platform where a new procurement 'noticing' regime, covering the full lifecycle of public procurement, from planning through to contract expiry, will be developed.

New notices are being built in Find a Tender. Contracting authorities will continue to be able to either create notices directly in the platform or have them automatically sent through via their eProcurement system when new activity takes place there.

Further information on the Transforming Public Procurement transparency ambition [can be found here](#).





We are delighted to announce that members can now register for the NWUPC Annual Conference which is to be held in person on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at The University of Manchester.

[Book your place now!](#)

- Network with procurement teams from across our Member institutions
- Attend free workshops covering topics to enhance your CPD
- Visit framework suppliers at the exhibition hall.

Please do share details of the conference with your colleagues who may also be interested in attending! Further details of workshops on the day will be out soon.

**REGISTER
HERE**

NWUPC Exhibition Stands - Further information of how you can book your stand at the NWUPC Conference 2023 will be out shortly and will be sent to all framework suppliers.

For all further enquiries contact - conference@nwupc.ac.uk.

NWUPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

Wednesday 14th June 2023

**REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN**

To be held in person at the
University of Manchester



Contracting Activities New Frameworks



NWUPC Ltd are delighted to announce Members now have access to the new [Sustainable Fleet Solutions Framework \(VEH3137 NW\)](#). This framework is the successor to the previous Vehicle Hire, Car Club and Leasing Framework - VEH3085 NW. This framework is split into 4 lots and is available to members of NWUPC, APUC, CPC, HEPCW, LUPC, NEUPC and SUPC. The agreement runs from the 1st October 2022 until the 30th September 2024 with the option to extend for two further one year periods until 30th September 2026. A full user guide is available at [HE Contracts](#).



[Framework 1 page User guide](#)

A brochure to accompany the launch of the Sustainable Fleet Solutions Framework has been created and can be downloaded by selecting the image to the left. The brochure includes a breakdown of the lot structures, benefits of using the framework and Call Off Options Available. Please feel free to distribute this [brochure to your colleagues](#).

Lot 1 : Vehicle Hire

Vehicles both fuel and ULEV increasing with an increasing list of electric/ULEV offered vehicles as the fleet develops. Including:

- Cars: variety of range including compact, people carrier 4x4, luxury
- Minibus: 9-19 people seater
- Coach hire and vans

As part of vehicle hire fleet management, services will be included in the specification as part of Lot 1 these would include but not be exhaustive;

- Accident management and breakdown support
- Congestion charge and air pollution charge management
- Driver risk management including license checks
- Full online vehicle to drive contact audit trail to assist with any issues including force majeure
- Optional assistance with fuel card
- Vehicle tracking

Lot 2 : Car Club

Car club service availability with a range of vehicle size:

- To provide a fleet of vehicles spread in a dense network to enable the hire of a vehicle
- Provide hire periods from 1 hour to over 24 hours
- To have an online booking system which will allow members to conveniently book cars
- Offer the capability to take vehicles internationally
- To enable the hire of supplier owned goods which will be installed within the supplier owned grey fleet to facilitate a virtual fleet style scenario for members with support offered by members
- To offer dedicated pool leasing vehicles to be used as a fleet of vehicles for Car Club purposes

What are the framework benefits?

- More advantageous pricing based on economies of scale from aggregated spend
- Savings can be base lined by comparing prices with the prices you previously paid
- A single exercise to establish the overarching agreement and establish the Terms and Conditions of the Framework - Reduced administrative effort and associated cost savings
- Framework Agreements support longer term business planning as they span a period of typically four years and allow some stability from market fluctuations

For further questions or enquiries contact [David Yates](#), NWUPC's Travel Category Manager or call on 0161 234 8002. Further information is provided in the Users Guide available on [HE Contracts](#).

Lot 3 : Leasing

The leasing of both fuel and when the fleet is available ULEV (Zero & Ultra Low Emission Vehicles):

- Cars: a variety of ranges including compact, people carrier 4x4, luxury
- Minibus: 9-19 people seater
- Coach and Vans

As part of leasing fleet management services will be included in the specification as part of Lot 3 these would include but not be exhaustive:

- Vehicle Tax support
- MOT booking management
- Mileage Management
- Congestion charge/air pollution charge management
- Accident management and breakdown support
- Driver risk management including license checks
- Full online vehicle to drive contact audit trail to assist with any issues including force majeure
- Optional assistance with fuel card
- Vehicle tracking

Lot 4 : Salary Sacrifice

The provision of a salary sacrifice scheme for a full range of ultra-low emission vehicles:

Cars: a variety of ranges including compact, people carrier 4x4, luxury and vans
Along with the provision of the vehicles the supplier must also:

- Provide full assistance when selecting a scheme
- Explain full tax implications and effect on earnings
- Provide full maintenance and support cover 365/6 days a year
- Roadside assistance 365/6 days a year

Contracting Activities New Frameworks



DESKTOPS AND NOTEBOOKS AGREEMENT (NDNA)

ITS5071 LU
LIVE - 1.11.2022

NWUPC is delighted to announce that UKUPC members (APUC, HEPCW, LUPC, NEUPC, NWUPC and SUPC) now have access to the latest [Desktops and Notebook Agreement \(NDNA\) under agreement reference \(ITS5071 LU\)](#). The agreement runs from the 1st November 2022 until the 31st October 2025 with an optional 12-month extension to 31st October 2026. A full user guide is available on [HE Contracts](#).

Scope of the framework:

The National Desktops and Notebook Agreement (NDNA) covers the purchase of the following equipment types under all standard operating systems (Windows, Linux and Chrome for example) with the exclusion of Apple OS, which is covered under a separate HE framework:

The Framework is split into 3 lots and has been awarded as follows:

Lot 1: Desktops - Desktop and Workstation PCs including standalone case-based systems from Micro and NUC (Next Unit of Computing) devices through to Full Tower, All-In-One ("AIO") PC devices where either the entire system including processing unit and device is housed within a single piece construction or alternatively, the processing unit is within a separate case and VESA mounted (or equivalent) on the reverse of the display and desktop Thin-Client end user units.

Contracting Activities New Frameworks

Lot 2 : Notebooks - Notebook and Mobile Workstation PCs including traditional 'clamshell' notebook/laptop PCs, 'hybrid'/'2-in-1'/convertible devices providing notebook and tablet multi-functionality, Tablet PC devices and mobile Thin-Client end user units.

Lot 3 : One-Stop Shop - Goods and Services as defined within Lots 1 and 2, procured by a customer from a single route to market.

Full details of the Lot structure and suppliers available on this framework can be found at [NWUPC.ac.uk](https://www.nwupc.ac.uk).

What are the framework benefits?

- Average savings of 14% compared with best available market pricing
- Minimum 3 year collect and return warranty included in price on all TPM devices* with enhanced on-site warranty services with some suppliers
- Additional benefits and savings available for volume-related purchases
- A range of value-added services available including for example, imaging, holding customer 'gold stock' for call-off, enhanced self-maintainer training
- Terms and Conditions that include the means of institution reparation through agreed liquidated damages if service levels are breached in any one of four core areas; time to quote, Delivery times, Dead on Arrival (DOA) response and Field Service Warranty response
- Suppliers capable of integrating with institutional e-procurement solutions
- Supplier pricing regularly benchmarked and reviewed
- Agreement Prime Contractors are Original Equipment Manufacturers permitting direct escalation and negotiation over all key matters arising
- Provides compliance under the EU Procurement Directives 2015
- Multiple methods of call-off including direct via ranking, desktop exercise and full mini-competition including permitted variation of weightings

For further questions or enquiries on this framework please contact [Mary Onabanjo](#), NWUPC's Technology Category Manager and NDNA lead. Further information is provided in the Users Guide available on [HE Contracts](#).

Contracting Activities New Frameworks



NWUPC Ltd Members can now access the recently tendered [APUC led Student Accommodation, Conference/Event, Delivered Catering & Hotel Management System\(s\) & Associated Services Agreement \(ITS1051 AP\)](#). This agreement is open to members of APUC, HEPCW, LUPC, NEUPC, NWUPC and SUPC. The framework went live on Tuesday 8th November 2022 for an initial period of two years, with the option to extend for a further 24 months. A full user guide can be found at [HE Contracts](#).

The Framework is split into 5 lots and has been awarded as follows:

- **Student Accommodation Management system(s) – Lot 1**
- **Conference/Event Management System(s) – Lot 2**
- **Delivered Catering Management System(s) – Lot 3**
- **Hotel Management System(s) – Lot 4**
- **Multi-Functional System(s) includes all above functionalities - Lot 5**

A full breakdown of what is included in the Lots can be found here at [NWUPC.ac.uk](https://www.nwupc.ac.uk).

Contracting Activities New Frameworks

Awarded Suppliers:

The following suppliers have been awarded to the agreement lots:

Lot 1 : Student Accommodation Management System(s)

- 1. Kinetic Solutions Ltd*
- 2. StarRez Ltd*
- 3. BedDeskChair Ltd

Lot 2 : Conference/Event Management System(s)

- 1. Kinetic Solutions Ltd*
- 2. StarRez Ltd*
- 3. Dispace Technology Ltd
- 4. IvVy UK Ltd*

Lot 3 : Delivered Catering Management System(s)

- 1. Aptus Systems Ltd T/A Spoonfed
- 2. Kinetic Solutions Ltd*

Lot 4 : Hotel Management System(s)

- 1. Kinetic Solutions Ltd*

Lot 5 : Multi-Functional System(s)

- 1. Kinetic Solutions Ltd*
- 2. StarRez Ltd*

*Please note, Kinetic Solutions, StarRez Ltd, and IvVy UK Ltd have not yet signed the Framework Terms and Conditions, therefore these Contractors should not be included in any call-off at this time.

For further questions or enquiries contact [Sarah Dye](#), NWUPC's Professional Services Category Manager.

Further information is provided in the Users Guide available on [HE Contracts](#).

Contracting Activities



If you have any questions about any of the UKUPC Frameworks please contact procurement@nwupc.ac.uk.

AUDIO VISUAL

Audio Visual Equipment and Installation Services - AVI3084 NW

The current agreement expires on the 28th of February 2022. It will be extended to its final year – to expire on the 28th of February 2024. Extension letters to be drafted and issued early January. Work to begin on the retender of the framework at a date to be confirmed in 2023.

Broadcasting Equipment and Integration Services - AVI3120 NW

1st Tender Working Party to review the draft framework strategy took place on the 2nd of November 2023. Work continues on the strategy, especially on the pricing evaluation.

Photographic Equipment and Consumables - AVI3125 NW

The framework has been extended to its final year and expired on the 31st of December 2023. Extension letters were issued to suppliers and have all been signed and returned. Work is expected to commence on the iteration of the next framework in Spring 2023. Requests for TWP Participation will be issued to members closer to that time.

COMPUTING

Apple Equipment, Accessories and Associated Services - ITS6004 HW

New products were announced in September 2022 and are available to order. Demand is expected to be high and customers are advised to engage with suppliers at the earliest opportunity. Supplier review meetings will be taking place early December.

COMPUTING

Data Centre Management equipment and Infrastructure framework - ITS2005 NE

The framework will be extended in the new year to 12/01/2024, the final 12 months of its extension. Extension letters will be issued in December. TWP volunteers to notify interest to Paul Eagleton at NEUPC.

Desktops and Notebooks (NDNA) - ITS5071 LU

The new framework agreement is now live and accessible to UKUPC members. The agreement runs for 3 years from 1st November 2022 till 31st October 2025, with an optional 1 year extension period to 31st October 2026. A full user guide is available on HE Contracts.

IT Related Accessories & Parts (ITRAP)– ITS4041 SU

The framework is coming to its final year of extension, with the current agreement period ending on the 2nd of February 2023. The agreement will be extended till 2nd February 2024 with extension letters to be drafted and issued in December.

DOMESTICS

Building Cleaning – CPC

The framework lead at CPC has confirmed that the reiteration for this has now been published to the market with a tender closing date of 28th February and an expected start date of 22nd May 2023.

ESTATES

Entrance and Control Systems – CPC

The framework lead at CPC, has confirmed that the new iteration is now live for NWUPC members, under a new Security Systems offering. We shall be updating this information on to HEC shortly.

Facilities Supplies – NWUPC

Work has commenced on the tender strategy for this offering which will combine the Air Filters, Plumbing and Electrical Goods frameworks.

LABORATORY

Electronic Components - MAI3130 NW

Extension letters have been issued to suppliers to take the agreement into its final year, with the agreement due to expire on 31st Dec 2023 - work on the retender will commence in the new year.

High Value Laboratory Equipment (HVLE) - LAB3123 NW

Work is underway on the retender of this agreement which is due to expire on 31st July 2023. The new agreement will continue in a framework format. There will also be a revised lotting structure, with the broadening of lot titles to incorporate more areas under each heading. Work is also ongoing to assess the viability of a new lot to cover mechanical testing equipment including items such as tribometers, indenters and micro-indenters – which are predominantly found in materials testing and physics labs.

Life Sciences Reagents, Kits & Consumables - LAB2009 NE

The existing agreement is due to expire on 31/12/2023, however, this framework is one of four Life Science related agreements that will be combined to create a new agreement entitled Life Sciences Equipment, Materials & Services. The tender is currently live with a target commencement date of 9th March 2023. The four existing agreements that will be amalgamated are Antibodies & Sera and other matrices LAB4042 SU, Molecular Biology Research Services LAB2002 NE, Life Science Equipment LAB5054 LU, Life Science Reagents, Kits and Consumables LAB2009NE.

Laboratory Consumables & Chemicals IRLA - LAB4040 SU

This agreement has been extended into its final year and is due to expire on 01/09/2023. Work on the retender is due to commence early in 2023.

Mass Spectrometry and Chromatography Equipment - LAB1029 AP

A new framework agreement has been awarded; LAB1029 AP commenced on 1st October 2022 to

LABORATORY

run for 3 years, with an option to extend for up to 12 months to 30th September 2026. The new agreement features a revised lotting structure (10 lots in total) with dedicated new lots for gas generator systems and refurbished equipment. All of the information pertaining to the new agreement is live on HEC.

LIBRARY

Books, e-books, e-textbooks, and associated services - LIB4044 SU

The first year of this iteration of the agreement has been embraced very well by our region, showing spend increase in excess of 10% in 20/21. The first supplier reviews have taken place and all have been positive with many of the smaller suppliers beginning to push the larger suppliers by taking an increasing proportion of market share. There are still a number of review meetings to take place, after which the contracting group will reconvene, work through what went well and what didn't, and implement the learnings from the former into the next round of reviews.

Serials, Periodicals And Associated Services Joint Consortia Agreement - LIB4038 SU

The draft strategy for the next iteration of this agreement has been issued and pre-market engagement has started with the incumbent suppliers. We have encouraged frank and open debate, in order to ensure that any minor failings or frustrations are ironed out for the benefit of both suppliers and members, and this approach has been warmly welcomed by all.

Library Security And Self Service Equipment Software And Maintenance - LIB 1009 AP

The renewal of this agreement has been underway for some time and a completed strategy will be issued very early in December for TWP approval.

OFFICE SOLUTIONS

Office, Computer & Library Supplies - OFF3068 NW

Work has commenced on the next iteration of the agreement and the TWP Volunteers are in place. The next reviews with the suppliers are due to take place in early December. Pricing pressures are still evident with all suppliers advising that increased cost pressures are likely to result in cost increase requests. Lyreco have implemented their commitment as part of their agreement with the University of Manchester to introduce electric powered vehicles from which to make their deliveries.

Paper Print & Specialist - OFF3137 NW

Will be amalgamated into the renewal of the Office Framework. Pricing pressures are still prevalent and price increase requests have been received for implementation in November.

Promotional Merchandise - OFF3128 NW

Work on the next iteration of the agreement is fully underway, although there has been slippage against the timetable that was set, which is highly likely to lead to the need for an extension of a further eight weeks.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HR, Payroll & Employee Screening - PFB3153 CPC

The CPC led agreement for Employee Screening Services has expired and these requirements have now been subsumed within a wider agreement for HR Solutions which is in the process of being added onto HE Contracts. This agreement covers digital identity verification and eligibility checks.

Temporary and Permanent Recruitment (TAP) - PFB4037SU

This agreement is currently in the process of being retendered. SQ responses were returned on 21st December and the SQ evaluation phase concludes on the 30th January. The ITT submission deadline is 2nd March, and the tender evaluation process concludes on 7th April.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

National Education Recruitment Advertising & Resourcing Services (NERARS) - PFB4038 SU

The retender exercise is in the process of being concluded and it is anticipated that the agreement will be live in line with the expiration of the current agreement. As a reminder, this iteration of the agreement also includes elements of media buying and marketing outside of education recruitment.

Occupational Health and Wellbeing for Students and Staff - PFB5052 LU

Work has commenced on the retender of this agreement with the strategy due to be reviewed by the working party in January.

TRAVEL

Fleet Solutions Sustainable - VEH3137 NW

Lots 1 through to 3 were awarded in October, with some non-conformance that is still being worked through. The expectation is that this will be resolved in the latter half of the month, and further information will be released once available. Lot 4, Salary Sacrifice, is at standstill at present, but will be in place for a December 1st start.

Travel Management Services - PFB4039

Review meetings with all suppliers on this framework were undertaken in early November. The overwhelming take-away from the meetings is that whilst spend has soared, the industry is still under resourced and rail & airline strikes are continuing to exacerbate the problems. The Chief Executive of The BTA was a guest speaker at the inaugural National Travel Group meeting and outlined on far greater details the issues the industry continues to face.

Pre-engagement has already been started by the framework lead, ahead of the drafting of the new strategy in January for relaunch in August 23.

Category Group and Membership Update



Heads of Procurement Group : Wednesday 28th September 2022

We had excellent attendance for this online meeting in which Julie-Ann updated the group on the NWUPC restructure and new additions to the Team. Ian Jarvey (Manchester) led a discussion on Social Value and Flexible Frameworks and Adam Clarke, MD of the Energy Consortium, along with Duncan Wyatt (Senior Trader), gave a presentation on the current state of the Energy Market. It is envisaged that these meetings will remain online for the foreseeable future.

Office Solutions Category Group : Friday 30th September 2022

Unfortunately, Alice Byford from Commercial who was due to present to us, was unable to attend but Dave Yates gave an update on all the frameworks under this Category and members held a round table discussion on what is currently going on at their institutions. The recurring theme seemed to be that things are busy again on campus. Lynn Abernethy (LSTM), a valued member of the group, is looking to take early retirement and was wished well by all the group. It is hoped that Alice Byford will be available to present to us at the next meeting. Or another possible suggestion was XMA on re-manufactured.

Furniture Category Group Meeting : Friday 7th October 2022

Sarah Dye updated us on the situation with frameworks and we had a great presentation by Lee Hansford, Head of Creative Design at Southern's Broadstock. Although meetings are for the most part, online, members discussed having a face-to-face meeting once the new Furniture agreement is in place.

Domestics Category Group : Tuesday 11th October 2022

We were delighted to hold this in-person meeting at the lovely Edge Hill campus in Ormskirk where we were joined online by Yvonne Williams (Bangor) and Martin Wass (Bolton). Emily and Rich confirmed that they were happy to continue in their roles of Chair and Deputy for a further term and after lunch our host Julie Chadwick gave us a very informative tour of the campus, including the Medical School complete with very lifelike 'dummies'. It was agreed that for our next meeting in January 2023, we will visit the Wray Brothers depot on Merseyside.

Estates Category Group : Wednesday 19th October 2022

Andy Hughes, Category Manager for NEUPC joined us to talk about the various frameworks he manages, namely Roofing, Installation and Maintenance, Signs and Signage and Mail Service. Helen Dodd-Williams has been looking after this category in the interim but we now have Laura Hills, who has joined us from YPO, who will assume responsibility for Facilities Management. Chair David Morris (Liverpool) is keen to hold at least one meeting out of the 3 yearly ones in-person.

Category Group and Membership Update



Computer Group Meeting : Friday 4th November 2022

We were delighted to hold this in-person meeting at the lovely Edge Hill campus in Ormskirk where we were joined online by Yvonne Williams (Bangor) and Martin Wass (Bolton). Emily and Rich confirmed that they were happy to continue in their roles of Chair and Deputy for a further term and after lunch our host Julie Chadwick gave us a very informative tour of the campus, including the Medical School complete with very lifelike 'dummies'. It was agreed that for our next meeting in January 2023, we will visit the Wray Brothers depot on Merseyside. Our next meeting is at the end of January at Keele University which will be in person with the option of hybrid and hopefully the use of the much-discussed 'Meeting Owls'.

Audio Visual Group Meeting : Wednesday 9th November 2022

Plans to hold this in person at MMU had to be revised when threatened industrial action on the trains was announced. However, there was still plenty going on at the meeting! Mark Sargison from Chester was confirmed as the new Deputy Chair of the Group. Mary Onabanjo, new NWUPC Category Manager for IT, AV and Telecomms gave us a comprehensive update on the framework agreements and Trevor Byrne gave a fantastic presentation on their new Engineering (MecD) Building at Manchester. Our February meeting will be hosted by MMU but we will be taking the time to look at the new MecD Building at Manchester.

Telecomms Category Group : Friday 18th November 2022

Again the group enjoyed good attendance online and Mary Onabanjo, as new Category Manager to the group, updated everyone on the relevant frameworks. Members had a round table discussion on common problems which they are facing including migration of ISDNs over to SIP. Chair Mark Allinson wished to send all good wishes to Phil Bickerton, who has recently retired after many years' service as group representative from Liverpool Hope.

Laboratory Category Group : Wednesday 23rd November 2022

The Group opted to hold this meeting online but it was very well attended and ably chaired by Paul Carter (Manchester), standing in for Victoria Talbot who was at the ISTR Symposium. We welcomed new members from Queens Belfast (Shauna Ryan and Emmett McCann) and UCLAN (Elinor Clayton) and it was great to have Lisa Blackburn along, new STEMmed Category Manager for NWUPC following her previous role as Lab Group representative for Keele. We were lucky enough to have an excellent presentation from Taron Smith (SUPC) and Linda Tyrrell (Solent University) on the Lab Gases framework. Our next meeting will be held in person at Harper Adams University.

Professional Services Group : Thursday 24th November 2022

The meeting finally went ahead after two postponements and there was some very lively debate centred around the theme of our meeting – Audit of Contracts which sit under this group. The members thanked Sarah Dye for the huge amount of work she had put into this and she in turn thanked them for their invaluable contributions to the audit.

Category Group and Membership Update

Winter Term Category Group Meetings

**Computer Category Group Meeting -
Friday 27th January - Keele University**

**Domestic Category Group Meeting -
Tuesday 31st January - Wray Bros Depot, Liverpool**

**Audio Visual Category Group Meeting -
Wednesday 8th February - Online**

**Estates Category Group Meeting -
Wednesday 22nd February - Online**

**Laboratory Category Group Meeting -
Wednesday 1st March - Staffordshire University**

**Office Solutions Category Group Meeting -
Friday 10th March - Online**

**Furniture Category Group Meeting -
Friday 17th March - Liverpool John Moores University**

**Telecommunications Category Group Meeting -
Friday 24th March - Online**

**Professional Services Category Group Meeting -
Tuesday 28th March - Online**

Meet the Team at

NWUPC

Mary Onabanjo recently joined NWUPC as our new Technology Category Manager looking after the Computing, AV and Telecomms Groups

Delivering value through responsible procurement

Hi Mary, could you let us know little bit about your journey before joining NWUPC?

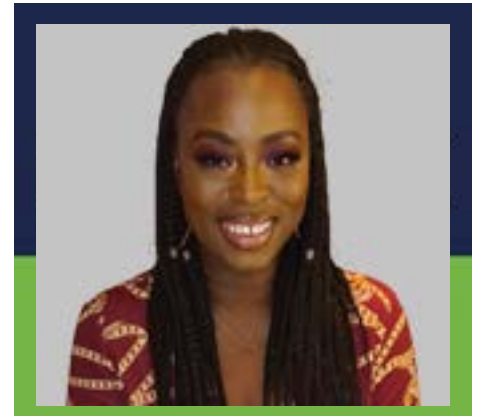
My career in the commercial sector and in procurement started just a year ago, as a Category Manager at CCS through the Civil Service Fast Stream Programme. Prior to that, I've had a very varied work history, with a 2.5-year tenure at HMRC as a VAT Compliance Officer in Individuals and Small Business Compliance Department, and various private sector roles ranging from customer services to claims analyst. Outside of the working environment, I would describe myself as an introverted extrovert, meaning at the best of times you would find me at home binge watching a Netflix series, but I will occasionally paint the town red.

Which aspects of your new role are you excited about and what are you most looking forward to?

I am very much looking forward to leading on the various projects and leaving my stamp on it. I enjoy engaging with people very much through my work and this role offers me the chance to do so with a wide variety of stakeholders. I am also looking forward to working in a new sector and all the learning opportunities that will provide.

What do you think are the future opportunities and challenges within the NWUPC Category Groups?

In terms of challenges, I believe now this lies within the supply chain for various categories and the difficulties many manufacturers are facing with getting the components required to manufacture their products e.g., chip shortages in the AV Sector. The challenge lies with the uncertainty of the economy due to various crisis causing an impact and when this is likely to turn for the better.



Meet the Team at NWUPC - Mary Onabanjo

What's your most-used productivity hack?

I recently discovered that Microsoft Outlook offered a to-do list app which I can populate and itemise by priority. It then sends daily email reminders about tasks due and this helps me to prioritise my work and ensures I get the most out of my working day.

What motivates you to come to work each day?

I'm a big advocate for learning and development and this role provides me with this daily. There's so much to learn within procurement which makes me eager to learn more.

A fun fact about me that you might not know is..

In 2019, I was on the ITV Show Tenables as part of a team called 'The Northern Souls'. *We did not win....*

What would your perfect weekend consist of?

I love travelling, so really any quick 2/3-night trip is right up my street. I recently travelled solo to Rome, and it was a very liberating experience. If I could travel every single weekend, I would.

What three items would you take with you to a deserted island?

My phone, hopefully there's power supply or a never ending battery life on this fictional deserted island. Assuming the island has food that I don't have to hunt myself, a rack of seasoning for the food and a blanket for shelter.

If you need to contact Mary or any of the NWUPC Team just go to our [Meet the Team](#) page for contact details.

